

INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF
2 November 2001

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program - Kuwait

1. Purpose. To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities in Kuwait to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent FAO trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. FACTS.

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length: 12 Months.

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: OMC-K FAO: July through July of the following year. Kuwaiti JCSC student FAO: Mid-February through early February of the following year. Graduation and report dates are subject to dates for the Holy Month of Ramadan.

(3) Program Description: Up to two FAOs conduct ICT in Kuwait per year, both assigned to the Office of Military Cooperation-Kuwait (OMC-K). One FAO trainee works in the Joint Headquarters Readiness Branch as an advisor to the Kuwaiti Armed Forces (KAF). The second FAO attends the Kuwaiti Command and Staff College.

(a) OMC-K FAO is allowed 3 months for regional travel after coordination with FAO supervisor. CSC FAO conducts travel before/after start/completion of the course. Plan travel as soon as possible after arrival. This will require all administrative inprocessing (acquiring resident visa, etc.) completed immediately upon arrival. This is approximately six weeks with residence visa and clearing requirements. Planning must be done carefully to conduct travel efficiently.

(b) Language Instruction Availability: There is no formal language training available in Kuwait. The Kuwait University does not offer classes suitable for FAO trainees. Some tutors are available for limited instruction; however, these are not Kuwaitis and coordination for instruction is difficult.

(4) Prerequisites:

(a) INTAC or equivalent force protection training (with documentation) required before arrival in country.

(b) Arabic DLPT 2/2/1+.

b. Property:

(1) Government.

(a) Vehicles: The station has one FAO vehicle, a 1991 Jeep Cherokee. It is a Government vehicle for use in support of regional travel. It is for official use only and *not* a substitute for personal transportation. OMC-K provides a vehicle for the J3 FAO to use in his advisory capacity. The KJCSC position does not have a vehicle other than the official one, if you are married, suggest you ship two cars. Valid stateside driver's license required.

(b) Furniture: The houses come fully furnished including appliances. Four transformers are available for each house in order to use 110 v items.

(c) Office Equipment: IPC 486 Laptop Computer (inoperative) with Windows 3.1, Xerox fax, and Hewlett Packard Laserjet 4L printer. Equipment is configured for 220v and is not 110v compatible. Recommend both FAOs bring personal computers.

(2) Personal: Majors with a good understanding of joint and combined operations and tactical combat arms doctrine at Division and below should fill the school slot.

(a) POVs. Each FAO is authorized shipment of one POV. Due to long shipment times (approximately 3 months), (CINCCENTCOM MSG states that all military personnel in Kuwait will be supplied with a government-supplied vehicle for domicile to duty work in KUWAIT! Application is in for two vehicles under the Defense Cooperative Agreement. Don't count on ANY VEHICLE SUPPORT as the student.) FAOs should ship early or consider purchasing a used vehicle in country. (By law, a Kuwaiti holds the title to any financed vehicle, so beware!) The rules change frequently for shipping late model cars. Prior to shipping contact Bassam at 011-965-242-4151 ext 246.

USAA does not insure vehicles in Kuwait, however FAOs can arrange for coverage through the GSO at the embassy. Insurance rates are very low in Kuwait. (This is because they will only insure a vehicle that is less than two years old without very liberal depreciation which means even with insurance, count on paying for 50-75% of each accident.)

(b) Household Goods. FAOs are normally authorized partial JFTR, since most major furnishings and appliances are provided. FAOs should bring only clothing, decorative items, kitchen and gardening supplies, and entertainment items, such as computers, stereos, and televisions. Incoming FAOs should coordinate with resident FAOs for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

(3) Miscellaneous: OMC-K provides a mobile phone, pager, and Motorola radios to support mission in Kuwait. Both FAOs also receive ADP support in the form of laptops and government e-mail accounts, with part-time internet access from OMC-K.

c. Housing: Provided from embassy housing pool IAW family size. The student FAO house has three bedrooms inside the house, one of which is the FAO's study area/office. All rental costs are covered by the Government so the FAO does not receive OHA/BAQ.

d. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical: The Embassy medical clinic is staffed with one PA and one nurse who provide all primary care and coordinate for additional medical services as needed in the local clinics/hospitals. Limited dental and medical support are available on a rotational basis at Camp Doha. All life-or-limb emergencies are evacuated to Germany. Trauma and emergent cases go to Kuwait Armed Forces Hospital where a USAF Spec Ops Medical contact team lives on the 5th floor. It includes a surgeon and an anesthesiologist. Personnel going to Kuwait must obtain all vaccinations, dental care, and a 6-month supply of prescription medicines prior to arrival. Begin series at least two months out to complete before going.

(2) Dependent Schooling: Most embassy persons send their children to the American School of Kuwait (ASK) which is DoDDS accredited and funded. Recommend those with school age children contact the Embassy Community Liaison Office (CLO) through the resident FAO to coordinate for admission/registration requirements.

(3) PX/Commissary: AAFES has a limited service shoppette at Camp Doha. Presently the shoppette carries some clothing and electronic items, canned and frozen foods, video rental, film developing, and a full range of AAFES catalog services. Also available are many supermarkets on the Kuwaiti economy which provide a wide range of American products. Mail order catalogs are very useful in Kuwait.

(4) APO: A full service APO is available at the Embassy and at Camp Doha. Normal postal regulations for size and weight apply.

(5) Recreation: The Community Liaison Office (CLO) offers information and coordinates a wide variety of activities within the local community. A robust MWR office at Camp Doha also provides ample opportunities for the community.

e. Rating Chain:

Rater: Chief, JHQ Readiness Branch

Senior Rater: Chief, OMC-K

f. FAOs in Training/Programmed:

MAJ Blake Thibodeaux 0102-0201 (KJCSC)
MAJ Tony Banchs

g. Address:

(1) Mail: Rank, Name
U.S. Embassy, Kuwait
Unit 69000, Box 13
APO AE 09880-9000

(2) Message: AMEMBASSY KUWAIT//OMC//

h. Phone #:

OMC (Embassy): 011-965-539-5307/8 Ext. 2520, MAJ Ross
OMC (FAX): 011-965-242-4192
OMC (Camp Doha): 011-965-487-8822 X 5849
OMC (Doha, FAX): 011-965-487-8822 X 5802
FAO Quarters: 011-965-534-5413

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

a. Entry requirements (NOTE: This information is subject to change. Recommend incoming FAOs check DoD 4500.54G, Foreign Area Clearance Guide and w/sponsor NLT 90 days before PCS). FAOs and family members require Diplomatic passports. Visas are not required for entry, however a residence visa and ministry of foreign affairs identification is mandatory for all adults. This takes 2-4 weeks to obtain upon arrival and prevents passports from being used for other purposes, including travel or application for other visas. Health / immunization requirements: none, but FAOs should ensure their immunizations are current for regional travel purposes. These now include both types of hepatitis vaccines. Children must show proof of a less than six-month old PPD test for polio to attend any school in Kuwait. People that enter the Kuwaiti medical system for any reason and test positive for TB may be deported if they refuse Kuwait-directed treatment. People with AIDS are deported. FAOs must attend INTAC prior to arrival in country.

b. Bring professional books concerning training, tactical operations, staff operations, and weapons systems. Also, include Arabic language materials.

c. FAOs should bring complete array of military uniforms. For KJCSC FAO the school uniform is Class A for first/last day, Class B and DCU remainder of the time.

Recommend FAO bring extra Class B trousers and shirts. FAOs should consider having CENTCOM patch sewn on Class A uniform before departure as patches are hard to find in country. DCUs will be issued from Camp Doha CIF. Purchase and bring desert patches for up to 6 DCU sets due to scarcity and exorbitant prices in Kuwait.

d. Regional Travel Priorities:

Priority one: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Turkey.

Priority two: Other Gulf Countries, Yemen, Iran*, Iraq*.

Priority three: The Maghreb, Libya*, Sudan, Mauritania

* current travel restrictions apply.

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